

of scientific knowledge on environmental issues, & support research, education, and information exchange to expand and spread the state of knowledge.

A National Institute for the Environment will allow the Nation to more effectively use science to improve environmental decision-making, thereby reducing costs and saving lives.

**Section 3. Purpose:** Create an institute to improve the scientific basis for decision-making on environmental issues by integrating the functions of knowledge assessment, research, information services, education & training, provide national leadership in environment science and research, and facilitate the sharing of public and private resources to enhance understanding and communication of scientific knowledge about the environment.

**Section 4. Establishment:** Authorizes and directs the National Science Foundation to establish a National Institute for the Environment with a mission to improve the scientific basis for decisionmaking on environmental issues. Directs that management of the Institute be awarded competitively.

**Section 5. Duties & Functions:** Sets the duties of the Institute to:

1. Initiate, facilitate, & where appropriate perform assessments of the current state of knowledge of environmental issues & their implications;

2. Award competitively peer-reviewed grants & where appropriate, contracts, for extramural scientific research;

3. Establish a National Library for the Environment as a universally accessible, easy to use, electronic, state-of-the-art information system for scientists, decisionmakers, & the public;

4. Sponsor education & training of environmental scientists & professionals & improve public environmental literacy.

**Section 6. Governing board:** Establishes a Governing Board composed of 18 members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, which shall establish goals, priorities, & policies of the Institute, & will include approximately equal numbers of scientists & users of scientific information on the environment. Ensures diverse composition including representation of States, academic institutions, business, labor, environmental groups, other citizens groups, women & minority groups. Ensures geographic diversity. Provides for 6-year terms of office in order to provide stability. Designates one member of the National Science Board to serve on the Governing Board.

**Section 7. Management and Staff:** Provides for a Director, Assistant Directors, & staff. Directs that the Institute be operated by a non-profit organization under contract with NSF.

**Section 8. Relation with National Science Board:** Directs the National Science Board to recommend names for the Governing Board and to approve selection of the Director.

**Section 9. Cooperation with Agencies:** The Institute may acquire any unclassified data & non-proprietary knowledge possessed by Federal agencies. The Institute shall cooperate with the agencies to ensure that the information & products of the Institute are useful & accessible to the agencies.

**Section 10. Interagency Advisory Committee:** Directs the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources of the National Science and Technology Council or an equivalent body to serve as an interagency advisory committee, to ensure that the efforts of the Institute & Federal agencies are complementary.

**Section 11. Grants, contracts, & other authorities:** Provides the Institute with the same authority as NSF to enter into financial arrangements, including competitively

awarded grants, loans, cooperative agreements, & contracts to institutions, teams, & centers, after rigorous peer-review. States that scientists, engineers, & other researchers should be able to receive funding regardless of whether they are from government or private sector institutions. Allows the Institute to receive funds from Federal agencies, states, & private sector institutions to carry out particular projects & activities, subject to guidelines established by the Board. Directs that funds provided not be used to reduce amounts available to the Institute from appropriations.

**Section 12. Authorization of appropriations.** Authorizes such sums as may be necessary to NSF to be transferred to the Institute. Prohibits funds of NSF from being transferred.

**Section 13. Definitions.**

Environmental sciences—the full range of fields of study including biological, physical, chemical, geological, & social sciences, engineering, & humanities, relevant to the understanding of environmental problems.

Scientist—practitioner of science relevant to the environment.

Decisionmakers—elected or appointed officials of Federal, State, tribal, & local governments & similar individuals in the private sector.

#### TRIBUTE TO REST HAVEN CHRISTIAN SERVICES

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of Rest Haven Christian Services, a nonprofit Christian based organization which has facilities located throughout the metropolitan Chicago area. This organization provides hope and opportunity to those in need in a way unmatched by any other.

Tonight they celebrate over 37 years of care for the frail and infirm elderly, and over 80 years of serving the needs of the aged who are well. Rest Haven was formed in 1954 to serve the elderly. A sister organization, the Holland Home—originally begun in Roseland in 1914—was merged into the Rest Haven ministry in 1969.

This ministry now serves over 1,200 seniors with skilled nursing, subacute rehabilitation services, assisted living, independent living, and community based services through its Providence Home Health Care Division. These services are accomplished on its five campuses located in Downers Grove, South Holland, Palos Heights, Crete, and Homer Township.

I commend Rest Haven Christian Services for the way they impact lives and restore hope and for their commitment to make serving their community a core value of citizenship.

Rest Haven Christian Services pledges to hold these values: Protecting the client's dignity and privacy; preserving independence; caring for the whole person, physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally; and, to glorify God in all they do.

Rest Haven Christian Services is an organization that has greatly benefited and enlightened our community. Their commitment, hard work and dedication deserves the highest acclaim.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH WLODARZ

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a man in my district who embodied the spirit of America. Joseph Wlodarz died to this life on August 5, 1997 at the age of 85 years.

Joseph "Fudgie" Wlodarz came to East Toledo when he was 13 years old. An all-city football player at Toledo's Central Catholic High School, Joe went on to play with local semi-professional teams, the Jack Frost Sugs, the Vargo Coals, and the Birmingham Ads. In addition to his passion for football, Joe also played basketball, baseball, and softball. He passed on his passion and his skill to hundreds of youngsters at Holy Rosary Church and School, where he coached children in these sports for 60 years. His son noted at his passing, "He just loved to coach kids." Wlodarz Field at Ravine Park in East Toledo bears his name, a testament to his love of sport.

Joseph Wlodarz worked for 27 years at the former Unitcast Corp. in Toledo, where he left his mark as well. While at Unitcast, he organized UAW Local 48, and served many times as the union's president. He also worked as the labor-management coordinator.

Dubbed "The Mayor of Birmingham"—(the close-knit Hungarian neighborhood of East Toledo in which he lived—Joe took an active interest in the neighborhood's community and civic affairs, although he never held an elected office. He was a founder of the Birmingham Hall of Fame, helped organize the 20th Ward Democratic Club, was a member of the East Side Recreation Board, served on the city of Toledo advisory panel for parks and recreation, and labored to establish the East Toledo Family Center where he also served on the board.

Joseph "Fudgie" Wlodarz' life is perhaps best summed up in his eldest son's tribute to him, which is a most fitting epitaph, "He was never too concerned about making much money. He was always for his community and neighborhood, union, and helping people."

Our heartfelt sympathy to Joe's wife Garnet, his sons James, Jack, Joseph, Jr., and Steve, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We mourn your loss, but trust you will find comfort in his memory and the legacy of a life truly well spent and devoted to others.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that due to unforeseen circumstances I was unable to vote on H.R. 2570—roll call No. 598. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye".

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRICITY CLEAN COMPETITION ACT OF 1997

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today, on behalf of myself, and my colleagues Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, other members of the New Jersey delegation, and Mr. WAXMAN, rise to offer legislation that all of us concerned about fair competition and the environment should support—the Electricity Clean Competition Act of 1997. Our legislation is offered in recognition of the fact that environmental regulation is a competitive issue that must be addressed as the Congress considers the restructuring of the electricity industry.

As many of my colleagues are aware, I have been skeptical that the Congress needs to take the lead in introducing the retail competition to the electricity industry. I have been an advocate for recognizing the unique role of States in ensuring the availability of this commodity to all our citizens in a manner that reflects the need for continued reliability of service, recovery of stranded costs, and continued consumer protection for residential customers.

At the same time, I have been concerned that States might find it difficult to develop a framework that would protect other vital interests of the American public, including: preventing the exercise of market power; establishing a reciprocal regime prohibiting States from gaining competitive advantages resulting from uneven application of deregulation; and most importantly, preventing market distortion and air quality degradation due to inconsistent environmental regulation that resulted from past Federal decisions made under a different set of regulatory circumstances.

As I have listened to the testimony presented before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power, it appears that a number of principles are emerging that can form the basis for a consensus bill. While I am still uncertain as to the exact timing of mandated universal direct access by all consumers, I believe that a date certain might well be a useful backstop to the efforts of the States and to ensure that the benefits of competition reach all our citizens within a reasonable timeframe.

However, I could not support restructuring legislation if it did not also: provide for reciprocity of access during the time preceding the implementation of universal access—ensuring that some suppliers could not retain captive customers under state regulation and compete for new customers in other jurisdictions; respect reasoned State decisions on utility recovery of investments in assets that become uneconomic in the new competitive environment; establish a regime favorable to the development of environmentally friendly, and competitive renewable technologies; and most importantly, address the need for comparable environmental standards applicable to all generating assets.

It is of this last point that our legislation is directed. I think that it is time we recognized that when the Congress adopted the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977, many old, dirty facilities that were expected to close down were granted exemptions to the strict air pollution

control requirements that we applied to new facilities. Yet, 20 years later these grandfathered facilities continue to operate and would, in the absence of our legislation, enjoy an even greater unfair competitive economic advantage over electricity generators that have installed state-of-the-art pollution control technologies or that generate electricity using cleaner fuels or renewable resources.

In order to remedy this problem, the proposed legislation establishes national emissions caps and a credit trading system for nitrogen oxides [NO<sub>x</sub>] and sulfur fine particulates. The national generation performance standard that would apply to existing facilities would be based on Federal new source performance standards, ensuring that all generation facilities would have to meet the same environmental requirements. Trading in emission credits ensures the lowest possible compliance costs.

Federal restructuring legislation represents the last, best chance to achieve the goals of the Clean Air Act and level the playing field for all competitors in the electric generation market. I hope that if Congress proceeds with consideration of restructuring proposals, my colleagues and I who support Electric Clean Competition Act of 1997 can work with the Commerce Committee to craft consensus legislation that will protect consumers, ensure a fair competitive environment and improve air quality.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA LEVIN

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 1997*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. BERMAN and I ask our colleagues to join us in honoring Sylvia Levin for her remarkable achievements in voter registration.

Sylvia became a deputy registrar with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office in 1973 and has enthusiastically registered an estimated 35,000 voters since then. She has done more to increase voter participation than virtually anyone we know.

For nearly 25 years, Sylvia has walked or bicycled to her post with an indefatigable determination to get as many eligible voters registered as possible. Nothing—not even a broken arm—has slowed the pace of her work.

Sylvia's generous contribution to our community has received wide recognition. She has been honored for her work by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, nominated to the California Secretary of State's Voter Outreach Hall of Fame, and selected as an "Unsung Hero" by NBC News in Los Angeles.

Our community owes a great debt of gratitude to Sylvia, and Mr. BERMAN and I ask our Congressional colleagues to join us in saluting her extraordinary contribution to our democratic system. We warmly congratulate her and wish her every happiness in the future.

H.R. 2493, THE FORAGE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT SMITH**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 30, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2493) to establish a mechanism by which the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior can provide for uniform management of livestock grazing on Federal lands:

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, allow me to provide a little historical reference and explain why we in the Congress should once and for all enact long-overdue legislative resolutions to management of livestock on public lands. This is not a new issue, but it is a delicate one, and the proposal that we have crafted and the method suggested to achieve this goal is different than prior efforts by Congress.

The facts are clear. The family ranchers who rely on access to public lands in the West suffer from great insecurity. For a number of years now they have been subjected to a litany of confusing and often-contradictory agency regulations. This fact was further exacerbated when Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt implemented additional far-reaching regulations known as "Rangeland Reform." The vast majority of ranchers in the West are good stewards of public land, yet they are forced to comply with a host of counter-productive regulations that should be aimed for the occasional wayward rancher—the exception to the rule—and not applied across the board in punitive fashion as they are today.

Many of you remember very well the efforts of the 104th Congress to enact reforms to the current regulatory structure for management of livestock on public lands. This well-intentioned goal failed to materialize in the closing days of last session, but the pressing needs of the West are still very present. Failed public policy deserves our attention, and that is why we are undertaking this effort.

For the past four months I have met with numerous Senators and Representatives who represent both ends of the philosophical divide to determine if there is a will to address a short, focused list of issues that will provide the western rancher small measures of needed security and are achievable in this Congress. With few exceptions, I have received very positive feedback. We have the consensus to engage such an effort.

After consultation with these Members of Congress and numerous interest groups, I developed a moderate list of issues that were addressed by the last Congress and would provide meaningful measures of security in the West while leaving the more contentious issues to be addressed another day. After meeting with key Senators and agreeing on this list of issues, in July I drafted them in legislative form, distributed them across the West, to environmental organizations, and throughout the Congress. I solicited input on this draft and, using these comments, recently drafted a new bill that reflects concerns raised by both ranchers and the environmental community. This bill has since passed both the House Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Resources with broad, bipartisan support.